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dom in matters of local concern from the restrictions of detailed municipal legislation while retaining the control of the judiciary and asking for the assistance and supervision of state officers in securing the highest and best municipal administration in the world."

Some of the chapters, notably that on Recent Legislation on Municipal Functions in the United States and that on Revenue Systems, (the latter prepared in collaboration with Prof. Charles E. Merriam of the University of Chicago), are admirable summaries of the subjects treated.

On the whole one is glad to have a volume like this on his desk, for its information is fresh and accurate and its observations and criticisms thoughtful and worth while. It is not to be considered as disparaging to say that the volume as a whole is not up to the standard of earlier work. They were homogeneous and continuously produced. The present volume deals with a varied list of topics and the chapters were produced at different times.

CLINTON ROGERS WOODRUFF.

Philadelphia.

The Government of England. By A. LAWRENCE LOWELL. Professor of the Science of Government in Harvard University. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1908. Two volumes. Pp. xv, 570; viii, 563. \$4.)

This work is a comprehensive treatise upon the English government, both national and local. It gives a detailed and illuminating account of the theory and practice of the central government with particular reference to the Crown, the Cabinet, the Lords, and the Commons. The details of parliamentary and electoral procedure are also given considerable space. The first volume is concluded with an exposition of the party system. The second volume treats of political parties, local government, education, the church, the empire, and the courts of law. The work concludes with about thirty-five pages of interesting and instructive "reflections."

The author has worked over all of the available sources of information, both primary and secondary, and, as a rule, has used his materials with rare skill. He has entered into the spirit

of British institutions to a marked degree and has avoided many errors made by writers who have attempted to show the logic of English political principles. He shows that in many instances there is no logic. "In England," he remarks, "the institutions being empirical have resulted from experience, although men have often tried to explain them afterwards by a somewhat artificial and incongruous process of reasoning."

The work is strong on the comparative side and shows in almost every chapter the valuable training which the author obtained in the preparation of his *Governments and Parties in Continental Europe*. Professor Lowell brought to his latest work the sane and broad views derived from a keen insight into governmental principles and a thorough study of governmental forms.

Notwithstanding the voluminous literature upon the subject and the great excellence of such works as Todd's *Parliamentary Government in England* and Anson's *Law and Custom of the Constitution*, Professor Lowell's recent work will undoubtedly be accepted as the most satisfactory comprehensive treatise on the government of England.

It is not to be expected, however, that the reader will give his ready assent to all of the author's conclusions. Many will prefer Bagehot's view of the present status of the veto, and it will appear to some that rather too much dependence is put upon biographical literature. For example, on page 35 of volume one, Professor Lowell quotes Sidney Lee's *Life of Queen Victoria* to show the influence of the late Queen. It is a well known fact that biographers often claim too much for the personages concerning whom they write, and Mr. Lee and other biographical writers quoted by Professor Lowell are not always free from this fault.

Professor Lowell also states (vol. i, p. 35) that in 1894 Queen Victoria "selected the minister who was to succeed" Mr. Gladstone. This statement is a little too strong. Justin McCarthy in his *History of Our Own Times* (vol. iii, p. 309) says that in the instance referred to "Lord Rosebery was recommended to the Queen as Prime Minister. The whole arrangement was carried on in private. The Liberal party in general was never taken into any confidence on the subject. A few of the Liberal leaders in the House of Commons talked with a few of the Liberal leaders in the House of Lords, and the question was settled." A "recom-

mentation" of this character cannot be treated lightly by an English monarch.

In some few instances also the reader will grow weary of excessive detail. The author's abundant knowledge has led him at times to introduce material which might well be relegated to the footnotes or omitted entirely. The general principle is sometimes lost sight of in the mass of details. This is true of the treatment of the executive departments, the qualifications for the franchise, and local government.

The style is vigorous and lucid and the whole book, judged from the standpoint of political ethics, is wholesome.

T. F. MORAN.

Purdue University.

Constitution of Michigan Annotated for the Use of the Constitutional Convention. By THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN. (Lansing, Mich.: State Printer, 1907. 25 parts.)

The Legislative Department of the Michigan State Library issued for the convenience of the recent constitutional convention held in that state, an annotated edition of the Constitution of Michigan which is one of the best and most comprehensive pieces of work of its kind thus far issued by any similar institution. Each article is taken up in turn, and in a preliminary pamphlet is annotated in the usual way. Then it is treated in separate parts or pamphlets, with similar provisions in other state constitutions and statutes quoted in full. Taking the title Municipal Corporations as an illustration we find in a pamphlet of 119 pages, all the constitutional provisions of the several states relating to counties, townships, cities and villages. The subject is treated under the following heads: *I. Counties and Townships.* a. County organization (3 pages); b. County officers, elections and terms (14 pages); c. Size of counties (7 pages); d. Alteration and division of counties (4 pages); e. City and county government (5 pages); f. Qualifications and eligibility of county officers (2 pages); g. Compensation of county officers (2 pages); h. Miscellaneous (11 pages); i. County finance and taxation (6 pages); j. Claims against counties; k. Township officers (1 page); l. Organization